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PROFESSIONAL DIRECTOR JON JORY TO BE GUEST ARTIST
APRIL 10-11 AT THEATER FESTIVAL IN BILLINGS, MONT.

MISSOULA, Mont.--

Jon Jory, producing director of the Actors Theater, Louisville, Ky., will be guest artist for the Montana State Theater Association's (MSTA) Festival '75 April 10-11 in Billings, Mont. The festival will be hosted by the Billings Studio Theater. Announcement of the festival was made recently by MSTA President Frank Jacobson, an assistant professor of drama at the University of Montana in Missoula.

Jory, who began his stage career at the age of six playing "Tiny Tim" in a national tour of "A Christmas Carol," received his first professional directing experience with a touring production of "My Three Angels" at age 13. Since then, he has directed over 85 plays, worked with 14 regional theaters, taught at six universities, and founded two professional regional theaters, the Long Wharf in New Haven and the Clinton Playhouse, also in Connecticut.

In 1969, he was invited to take over the management and artistic control of Actors Theater of Louisville (ATL), then in danger of extinction. Today, ATL is in the healthiest financial position of any theater in the country. He has directed in excess of 25 plays in his six seasons at ATL, including "Long Day's Journey Into Night," "A Man for All Seasons," "Tobacco Road" and the American premiere of "Female Transport."

One of Jory's own plays, "Tricks," premiered at ATL in October 1971 and is currently running off-Broadway in New York. Other of Jory's works have been presented by the Cleveland Playhouse, Cleveland, Ohio; the Yale University School of Drama, New Haven, Conn.; Essayons Playhouse in Virginia; Des Moines Playhouse, Des Moines, Iowa; and the Maxinkuckee Playhouse, Culver, Ind.

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For his services to the community, Jory was elected one of the three Outstanding Young Men by the Louisville Jaycees and was appointed to the Honorary Order of Kentucky Colonels.

Jory will address the general membership of the MSTA at Festival '75, critique productions at the festival and be available to visit informally with festival participants about theater. He will also remain in Billings to be guest artist of the American Community Theater Association's Region 7 Conference, also hosted by Billings Studio Theater, April 12-13.

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